

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for cleaning a plurality of electronic components, comprising:

a tank for containing a cleaning fluid:

an ultrasonic resonator mountable in communication with the cleaning fluid for ~~charging~~ imparting ultrasonic energy thereto:

a support platform positionable over a top surface of the cleaning fluid and having a first surface that faces the top surface of the cleaning fluid and a second surface on an opposite side thereof for supporting the electronic components ~~such that the electronic components are in contact with said top surface of the cleaning fluid in use~~ , and further including fluid inlets that are in communication with the cleaning fluid for diffusing cleaning fluid to said second surface of the support platform on which the electronic components are supported; and

a cleaning fluid supply system for generating a continuous flow of cleaning fluid into the tank for cleaning the electronic components ~~in contact with said top surface of the cleaning fluid~~ supported on said second surface.

2. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic resonator is immersed into the cleaning fluid inside the tank.

3. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic resonator is mounted to an external surface of the tank.

4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the continuous flow of cleaning fluid generated by the cleaning fluid supply system maintains the top surface of the cleaning fluid at a level higher than a rim of the tank, whereby cleaning fluid continuously overflows out of the tank.

5. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, including an outer tank arranged adjacent to the tank, which is configured to collect cleaning fluid overflowing from the tank.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended): Apparatus as claimed in claim [[6]] 1, wherein the support platform is mounted onto a rim of the tank.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [[8]] 1, including fluid outlets in the support platform for draining cleaning fluid away from the surface of the support platform on which the electronic components are supported.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [[8]] 1, wherein the cleaning fluid supply system is adapted to supply an adequate flow of cleaning fluid to the tank such as to maintain a substantially uniform amount of cleaning fluid in contact with the electronic components on the second surface of the support platform.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [[6]] 1, including a transferring device operative to position the electronic components onto the surface of the support platform.

12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, including a moving mechanism for repeatedly moving the electronic components laterally relative to the top surface of the cleaning fluid that is in contact with the electronic components.

Claims 13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frequency of ultrasonic energy supplied by the ultrasonic transducer is 20 to 80 kHz.

17. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tank is made from stainless steel or other stable metal.

18. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the platform is made of aluminum with hard anodizing or stainless steel or other stable metal.

19. (Currently Amended) Method for cleaning a plurality of electronic components, comprising the steps of:

providing a tank containing a cleaning fluid;

ultrasonically charging the cleaning fluid;

supporting the electronic components ~~such that the electronic components are in contact with~~ on a surface of a support platform that faces away from a top surface of the cleaning fluid;

diffusing cleaning fluid from the tank to the surface of the support platform on which the electronic components are supported; and

generating a continuous flow of cleaning fluid into the tank for cleaning the electronic components ~~in contact with said top surface of the cleaning fluid~~ supported on said platform.

20. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 19, including immersing an ultrasonic resonator into the cleaning fluid inside the tank for ultrasonically charging the cleaning fluid.

21. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 19, including mounting an ultrasonic resonator on an external surface of the tank for ultrasonically charging the cleaning fluid.

22. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of generating a continuous flow of cleaning fluid into the tank includes maintaining the top surface of the cleaning fluid at a level higher than the rim of the tank, whereby cleaning fluid overflows out of the tank.

23. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 22, including collecting cleaning fluid overflowing from the tank with another tank for drainage.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~[[24]]~~ 19, wherein the support platform is mounted onto a rim of the tank.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~[[26]]~~ 19, including draining cleaning fluid away from the surface of the support platform on which the electronic components are supported.

28. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~[[26]]~~ 19, including the step of maintaining a substantially uniform amount of cleaning fluid in contact with the electronic components on the surface of the support platform by providing an adequate supply of cleaning fluid to the tank.

29. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~[[24]]~~ 19, including repeatedly moving the electronic components laterally relative to the top surface of the cleaning fluid that is in contact with the electronic components.

Claims 30-32 (Canceled).

33. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the frequency of ultrasonic energy charged to the cleaning fluid is 20 to 80 kHz.